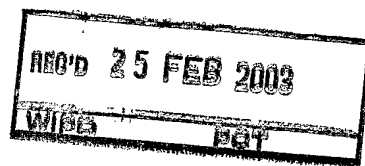


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 1282-015/MMM	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US01/43796	International filing date (day/month/year) 18 November 2001 (18.11.2001)	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 November 2000 (20.11.2000)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 3/12, 15/177 and US Cl.: 707/526; 709/327, 358/1.6; 717/176		
Applicant FLEXIWORLD TECHNOLOGIES, INC		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of ___ sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 30 May 2002 (30.05.2002)	Date of completion of this report 15 January 2003 (15.01.2003)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer Heather Herndon Telephone No. 703.305.3900	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/43796

I. Basis of the report1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-56 as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims:
pages 57-79, as originally filed
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1-10, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☒ the description, pages NONE
- ☒ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Please See Continuation Sheet

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

V.1. Reasoned Statements:

The opinion as to Novelty was positive (Yes) with respect to claims 1-41, 44, 74-75, 89-95, 104-105, 112-116, 140, 144, 161, 162, 164-171, 173-179, 181, 195, 196-204, 208-210

The opinion as to Novelty was negative (No) with respect to claims 42-43, 45-48, 49-73, 77-86, 88, 96-97, 100-103, 107, 111, 118-124, 126, 128, 130-131, 135-139, 141, 144, 146, 147-154, 156, 157, 160, 163, 180, 184, 186-190, 193-194, 211-212, 164-171, 195

The opinion as to Inventive Step was positive (Yes) with respect to claims NONE

The opinion as to Inventive Step was negative (NO) with respect to claims 1-212

The opinion as to Industrial Applicability was positive (YES) with respect to claims 1-212

The opinion as to Industrial Applicability was negative (NO) with respect to claims NONE

Claims 42-43, 45-48, 164-171, and 195 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Taylor, III et al., US Patent 5,867,633. Taylor discloses a method and system wherein a document processing application receives an image file for printing. The application registers the image with the image server. The application initiates a print job, sending the image identifier issued by the image server and selects print parameters to the printer device. The image server and printer driver can be independently executing processes. Taylor further discloses a system in which the application decides how to divide up the image processing tasks between the application and the printer driver in order to improve efficiency. The printer driver performs additional processing to generate an output for the printer at an appropriate resolution.

Claims 49-73, 77-86, 88, 96-97, 98-99, 100-103, 106, 108, 109, 110, 107, 111, 117-124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129-131, 132-134, 135-139, 141, 144, 146, 147-154, 155, 156, 157, 158-159, 160, 163, 172, 180, 182-183, 184, 185, 186-190, 191-194, 205-207, and 211-213 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Atkinson et al., US Patent 5,613,124. Atkinson discloses a cache entry containing presentation data representing the content of the source object in a device-independent bitmap format formatted for a type of printer. The client program can also use cache entry to render the source object on the printer. See figure 4 and column 6, lines 9-20 and 30-52. Client programs can render source object data by requesting the desired data in a particular presentation format and retrieving the presentation data using a data transfer mechanism provided by the underlying system.

Claims 1, 2-5, 10-11, 13-19, 23-24, 26-27, 29-39, and 42-43 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Taylor, III et al., US Patent 5,867,633 in view of Anonymous, Windows for Workgroups. Taylor discloses a method and system wherein a document processing application receives an image file for printing. The application registers the image with the image server. The application initiates a print job, sending the image identifier issued by the image server and selects print parameters to the printer device. The image server and printer driver can be independently executing processes. Taylor further discloses a system in which the application decides how to divide up the image processing tasks between the application and the printer driver in order to improve efficiency. The printer driver performs additional processing to generate an output for the printer at an appropriate resolution. Windows for Workgroups discloses a peer-to-peer network enabling a user to share disk and printer resources from any workstation running the program in enhanced mode. It would not involve an inventive step to provide a network enabling a user to share disk and printer resources for the purpose of printing image files as it is taught by Windows for Workgroups. Moreover, transmitting from an information apparatus to a processor that is distinct from the apparatus and the selected output device would not involve an inventive step as it was common to utilize apparatuses and output devices over a network sharing disk and printer resources.

Claims 6-9, 12, 20-22, 25, 28, 40-41, and 44 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over the prior art as applied in the immediately preceding paragraph and further in view of Hewlett-Packard Company, EP 952513. Hewlett-Packard

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(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

discloses a method of configuring a peripheral device on a network without user intervention includes a server node receiving identification data for identifying the peripheral device on the network, and, if the peripheral device is a new device on the network or a driver for the peripheral device is not registered on the server node, the server node self-installing the driver for the peripheral device. See abstract and columns 2-6. It would not involve an inventive step to provide a communication channel between an information apparatus and an output device and receiving one or more attributes describing the output device as taught jointly by Taylor, Windows for Workgroups, and Hewlett-Packard.

Claims 74-76, 89-95, 104-105, 112-116, 140, 142-145, 161, 196-204, and 208-210 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Atkinson et al., US Patent 5,613,124. Atkinson discloses a cache entry containing presentation data representing the content of the source object in a device-independent bitmap format formatted for a type of printer. The client program can also use cache entry to render the source object on the printer. See figure 4 and column 6, lines 9-20 and 30-52. Client programs can render source object data by requesting the desired data in a particular presentation format and retrieving the presentation data using a data transfer mechanism provided by the underlying system. It would not involve an inventive step to provide various types of output data comprising of different image processing operations as taught by Atkinson's presentation data rendering.

Claims 164-171, 173-179, and 181 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Atkinson et al., US Patent 5,613,124 in view of Schulyer, C., Solution to Sharing Local Printers. Atkinson discloses a cache entry containing presentation data representing the content of the source object in a device-independent bitmap format formatted for a type of printer. The client program can also use cache entry to render the source object on the printer. See figure 4 and column 6, lines 9-20 and 30-52. Client programs can render source object data by requesting the desired data in a particular presentation format and retrieving the presentation data using a data transfer mechanism provided by the underlying system. Schulyer discloses a method for allowing local printers to be shared by users on the network. It would not involve an inventive step to transmit image data to various printers in a network as taught by both Atkinson and Schulyer.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----
NONE